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FROM: ATHENS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 554, OCTOBER 4, 7 P.M.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 554, INFORMATION THESSALONIKI UNNUMBERED.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN--WHICH OPENED OFFICIALLY LAST WEEK WITH DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF ELECTIONS--TO GO INTO FULL SWING THIS WEEKEND WHEN (1) CARAMANLIS KICKS OFF ERE CAMPAIGN WITH SPEECH SUNDAY IN THESSALONIKI (2) GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MEASURES IT WILL TAKE TO INSURE HONEST ELECTIONS AND (3) BOTH ERE AND CU PUBLISH AT LEAST PARTIAL LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS.

CARAMANLIS THESSALONIKI SPEECH--IN WHICH HE EXPECTED TO SET FORTH ERE PLATFORM--WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED FOR INDICATION OF TONE CAMPAIGN TO FOLLOW AND ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPARISONS 1961 CARAMANLIS ELECTORAL SPEECH SAME CITY. SIZE AND ENTHUSIASM CROWD MAY GIVE INDICATION IMPACT LAMBRAKIS CASE HAS HAD ON POPULARITY CARAMANLIS AND ERE IN AREA. (IN THIS CONNECTION, IN THESSALONIKI, CHIEF PROSECUTOR BOUTIS HAS REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED AGAINST RELEASE ON BAIL OF FOUR SENIOR GENDARMERIE OFFICERS AWAITING TRIAL FOR COMPLICITY IN LAMBRAKIS DEATH).

ALL PARTIES WORKING FEVERISHLY TO COMPLETE LISTS CANDIDATES ON TIME OCTOBER 14 DEADLINE. WHILE THERE IS REPORTEDLY BITTER COMPETITION WITHIN ERE AND CU RANKS FOR PLACES ON TICKETS, EDA AND PROGRESSIVE CANDIDACYS APPARENTLY AVAILABLE FOR THE ASKING. THERE IS UNCONFIRMED RUMOR THAT EDA MAY NOT RUN IN ALL DISTRICTS BUT ONLY IN THOSE IN WHICH THERE SOME LIKELIHOOD SUCCESS. USUAL CLAIMS OF DEFECTIONS FROM RIVAL CAMPS BEING MADE BY ALL PARTIES, ALTHOUGH ONLY CONCRETE INSTANCE OF PARTY SWITCHING HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVE DEPUTY VASSILATOS, WHO JOINED CENTER UNION.

(1) • This copy must be returned to RM/R central files with notation of action taken. (DUE TO)

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DUE TO DELAY IN PREPARATION VOTERS' LISTS, ELECTIONS MAY BE POSTPONED ONE WEEK. PRIME MINISTER MAVROMICHALIS TOLD REPORTERS THAT IF NECESSARY HE COULD DELAY ELECTIONS AS MUCH AS WEEK WITHOUT APPROVAL POLITICAL PARTIES, SINCE IT WITHIN 45-DAY LIMI KOOM DAM DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT. PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID TEA BATTALIONS WILL BE DISARMED BEFORE ELECTIONS BUT ADDED GOVERNMENT HAS NOY YET "COPED" WITH QUESTION OF SUSPENSION TOP SECURITY OFFICIALS. IN THIS CONNECTION, OPPOSITION PRESS PLAYING UP CHARGES AGAINST GENDARMERIE HEAD VARDOULAKIS BY RETIRED GENDARMERIE COLONEL THAT VARDOULAKIS RESPONSIBLE FOR "DISAPPEARANCE" FROM GENDARMERIE RECORDS FILE OF CARAMANLIS AIDE KONDAS WHICH CONTAINED ALLEGED DAMAGING INFORMATION OF LATTER'S EAM ACTIVITY DURING WAR. PRIME MINISTER HAS TERMED CHARGE "SERIOUS ONE" AND PROMISED INVESTIGATION. OPPOSITION PRESS CITING CASE AS POINTING UP NEED FOR REMOVAL TOP SECURITY OFFICIALS DURING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

ALTHOUGH UP TO NOW ALL PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT COMPOSITION NEW GOVERNMENT AND CONFIDENCE IN ITS DETERMINATION TO CARRY OUT HONEST ELECTIONS, HINT OF POSSIBLE FUTURE TROUBLE CONTAINED IN DENIAL BY CÜ HEAD PAPANDREOU THAT HE HAD SAID EARLIER THAT "STATE OF JUSTICE AND NORMALCY RESTORED." ACCORDING TO PAPANDREOU HE ONLY OBSERVED THAT THERE IS "CONSIDERABLE RELAXATION OF POLITICAL TENSION," AND ADDED "HOPE" THAT THE "PARTY STATE WILL BE PREVENTED FROM ACTING UNTIL THE ELECTIONS." THUS IT POSSIBLE THE SWEETNESS AND LIGHT WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW GOVERNMENT DURING FIRST WEEK OF ELECTORAL PERIOD MAY BE OF SHORT DURATION.

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